

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 49, and 50. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:
 - a substantially planar restrictive member configured for implantation into a stomach of an animal, the restrictive member configured to divide the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber, the restrictive member having an outer width between 7 and 20 centimeters, the restrictive member comprising a single unitary sheet membrane, the restrictive member being the sole restrictive element of the gastrointestinal implant device; and
an anchor configured to be fixedly coupled to the stomach and removably coupled to the restrictive member for securing the restrictive member within the stomach, the anchor having an exterior perimeter adapted to contact inner walls of the stomach[[],];
and
a mechanical member that removably couples the anchor to the restrictive member with a mechanical feature after the anchor is placed in the stomach, an outer perimeter edge of the restrictive member being coupled to the anchor by the mechanical member, the restrictive member being substantially planar and being coplanar with a plane of the anchor.
2. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the restrictive member is a membrane having an exterior perimeter and defining an interior aperture.
3. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 2, wherein the aperture is substantially circular, having a diameter between about 1 and about 5 centimeters.

4. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 2, wherein the restrictive member is substantially circular, having an external diameter between about 7 and about 20 centimeters.
5. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the restrictive member is both flexible, allowing the restrictive member to deform, and non-elastic, ensuring that the surface area of the restrictive member does not vary substantially.
6. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 5, wherein the restrictive member is substantially non-permeable.
7. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 6, wherein the non-permeable member comprises a permeable material impregnated with an impermeable coating.
8. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 7, wherein the permeable material is selected from the group consisting of: natural fibers; synthetic fibers; polyester fibers; and combinations thereof, and the impermeable coating is selected from the group consisting of: silicone; urethane; and combinations thereof.
9. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 5, wherein the restrictive member is formed from a composite material prepared using an otherwise elastic material together with a matrix of fibers impregnated therein, the resulting composite being substantially non-elastic.
10. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the restrictive member comprises a feature configured for coupling to the anchor.
11. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 10, wherein the feature comprises a loop.
12. (Previously Presented) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the anchor is configured to be fixedly coupled to the stomach and the restrictive member is removably coupled to the anchor, allowing the restrictive member to be removed and replaced as necessary, without having to remove the anchor.

13. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the anchor includes a plurality of retractable spring clips, each spring clip configured to penetrate the muscular tissue of the stomach.
- 14-16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the anchor is comprised of a shape-memory material.
18. (Original) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 17, wherein the shape-memory material comprises a nickel-titanium (Ni-Ti) alloy.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously Presented) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 1, wherein the mechanical feature comprises a hook.
21. (Withdrawn) A method of treating obesity comprising the steps of:
providing a restrictive member;
providing an anchor;
fixedly coupling the anchor to an upper portion of an animal's stomach;
removably coupling the restrictive member to the anchor, the restrictive member, when coupled, dividing the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber and limiting the rate that food can pass therethrough.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the anchor comprises an annular element including a plurality of deployable spring clips attached thereto, the spring clips configured, when deployed, to secure the anchor to the stomach.
23. (Withdrawn) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:
a restrictive device defining a restrictive aperture, the device configured for implantation into an upper part of a stomach of an animal;
a variable length elongated tube, open at both ends, and coupled at its proximal end to the restrictive device, the tube adapted to extend at least about to the pylorus to

limit absorption of nutrients in the stomach, and

an anchor coupled to the elongated tube for securing at least a distal portion of the elongated tube.

24. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the restrictive device comprises:
 - a restrictive member configured to divide the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber; and
 - an anchor fixedly coupled to the stomach and removably coupled to the restrictive member for securing the restrictive member within the stomach.
25. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein elongated tube is substantially non-permeable.
26. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the elongated tube comprises a flexible sleeve.
27. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 26, wherein the flexible sleeve is non-supported.
28. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 26, wherein the flexible sleeve is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE); expanded PTFE; Fluorinated Ethylene Polymer (FEP); polypropylene; polyethylene; and combinations thereof.
29. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 26, wherein the flexible sleeve is formed of a material having a coefficient of friction of less than about 0.2.
30. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 26, wherein the flexible sleeve comprises a coating.
31. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 30, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of: silicone-based coatings; polyurethane-based coatings; and combinations thereof.

32. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the elongated tube extends into the intestine.
33. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the anchor secures the elongated tube within the gastrointestinal tract.
34. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the anchor secures the elongated tube to the pylorus.
35. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, further comprising an elongated extension tube, open at both ends, a proximal end of the extension tube substantially aligned with a distal end of the elongated tube.
36. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 35, further comprising a connector coupled between the proximal end of the extension tube and the distal end of the elongated tube.
37. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 36, wherein the connector comprises a hook-and-loop connector.
38. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the anchor is collapsible.
39. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 38, wherein the anchor is formed of a shape memory material.
40. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 39, wherein the anchor is formed of a nickel-titanium (Ni-Ti) alloy.
41. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 23, wherein the anchor is tubular anchor comprising barbs extending from the exterior surface of the anchor, the barbs configured for securing the anchor to the muscular tissue of the gastrointestinal tract.

42. (Withdrawn) The gastrointestinal implant device of claim 41, wherein the barbs are substantially bi-directional, extending outward, in opposing directions that are substantially parallel to the central axis of the tubular anchor.
43. (Withdrawn) A method of treating obesity comprising the steps of:
 - endoscopically placing a removable, variable restrictive device in an upper part of a stomach;
 - endoscopically placing a removable, variable length sleeve in the duodenum and jejunum; and
 - connecting the sleeve to the restrictive device.
44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of placing a removable, variable restrictive device comprises:
 - providing a restrictive screen;
 - providing an anchor;
 - fixedly coupling the anchor to an upper portion of an animal's stomach;
 - removably coupling the restrictive screen to the anchor, the restrictive screen, when coupled, dividing the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber and limiting the rate that food can pass therethrough.
45. (Withdrawn) A method of causing weight loss comprising the steps of:
 - endoscopically placing a sleeve in intestines;
 - anchoring the sleeve in a pylorus;
 - extending the sleeve through the stomach; and
 - anchoring the sleeve to a ring in the stomach.
46. (Withdrawn) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:
 - means for providing a restrictive member;
 - means for providing an anchor;
 - means for fixedly coupling the anchor to an upper portion of an animal's stomach;
 - and
 - means for removably coupling the restrictive member to the anchor, the restrictive

member, when coupled, dividing the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber and limiting the rate that food can pass therethrough.

47. (Withdrawn) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:

means for endoscopically placing a removable, variable restrictive device in an upper part of a stomach; and
means for connecting the sleeve to the restrictive device.

48. (Withdrawn) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:

means for endoscopically placing a sleeve in intestines;
means for anchoring the sleeve in a pyloris;
means for extending the sleeve through the stomach; and
means for anchoring the sleeve to a ring in the stomach.

49. (Currently Amended) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:

substantially planar restrictive means for implantation into a stomach of an animal, the restrictive means configured to divide the inner volume of the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber, the restrictive member having an outer width between 7 and 20 centimeters, the restrictive member means comprising a single sheet unitary membrane, the membrane being the sole restrictive element of the gastrointestinal implant device; and

anchoring means for fixedly coupling to the stomach and for removably coupling to the restrictive means for securing the restrictive means within the stomach[[,]];

mechanical member means that removably ouples the anchoring means to the restrictive means with a mechanical feature after the anchoring means is placed in the stomach, an outer perimeter edge of the restrictive means being coupled to the anchoring means, the restrictive means being substantially planar and being coplanar with a plane of the anchoring means.

50. (Currently Amended) A gastrointestinal implant device comprising:

a substantially planar restrictive member configured for implantation into a stomach of an animal, the restrictive member configured to divide the inner volume of

the stomach into a proximal chamber and a distal chamber, the restrictive member having outer width between 7 and 20 centimeters, the restrictive member comprising a single sheet unitary membrane, the restrictive member being the sole restrictive element of the gastrointestinal implant device;

an anchor configured to be fixedly coupled to the stomach and removably coupled to the restrictive member for securing the restrictive member within the stomach, the anchor having an exterior perimeter adapted to contact the inner walls of the stomach[[,]];

a mechanical member that removably couples the anchor to the restrictive member with a mechanical feature after the anchor is placed in the stomach, an outer perimeter edge of the restrictive member being coupled to the anchor, the restrictive member being substantially planar and being coplanar with a plane of the anchor; and

a plurality of retractable spring clips attached to the anchor, each spring clip configured to penetrate the muscular tissue of the stomach.